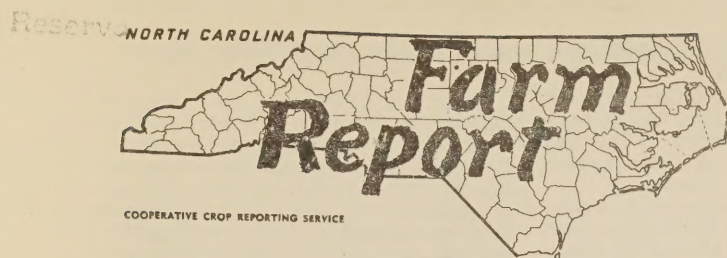


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QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. DISCUSS JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION.
2. WHAT IS THE PROSPECTIVE LATE SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE?
3. WAS JANUARY EGG OUTPUT ABOVE OR BELOW DECEMBER PRODUCTION?
4. COMPARE JANUARY 1, 1951 SOYBEAN STOCKS WITH THE PREVIOUS YEAR.
5. GIVE THE 1950 COMMERCIAL MEAT PRODUCTION.
6. WHAT CHANGES WERE NOTED IN FOOD PRICES DURING THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF 1950?
7. WHAT WEATHER RECORDS WERE SET IN JANUARY?
8. DID MILK COW RATIONS COST MORE 1950 THAN 1949?
9. HOW MANY CHICKS WERE PLACED WITH COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCERS DURING JANUARY?

No. 79

RALEIGH, N. C.

FEBRUARY 15, 1951

FEBRUARY 1, 1951 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL SITUATION

The month of January was dry with temperatures quite variable. Total rainfall during the month was considerably below normal. However around February 1 reports from Mountain areas indicated that soils were too wet for any field activity. Piedmont and Coastal sections soil moisture supplies ranged from satisfactory to dry. Subsoil moisture supplies are below normal in some Piedmont counties.

Small grains are making slow progress with freeze damage reported from several producing areas. Most comments on freeze damage relate to extremely early and late plantings.

Livestock and dairy farmers have had to depend upon supplemental

(Continued on page 2)

SOYBEAN STOCKS UP SHARPLY

Soybean stocks in all positions in North Carolina on January 1, meaning on-farm plus off-farm stocks, totalled 3,360,000 bushels. This is an increase of 32 percent over the 2,540,000 bushels available on January 1, 1950 and is almost 66 percent of the record 1950 soybean production of 5,117,000 bushels.

Of the total, 1,484,000 bushels of soybeans are stored on farms and 1,876,000 bushels are held in off-farm positions.

In the United States more than 227 million bushels of soybeans were reported stored in all positions on January 1, 1951. These stocks are largest in the 9 years of comparable record by a wide margin, exceeding those of a year earlier by 27 percent.

(Continued on page 2)

JANUARY MILK PRODUCTION RECORD HIGH FOR MONTH

Production of milk on North Carolina farms during January totaled an estimated 129 million pounds. This is the highest production of record for January and is 8 million pounds above the previous high for January reached in 1950.

Milk production during January was up 3 million pounds from December. This follows closely the usual seasonal pattern for this State with production showing an upturn about January and February.

There were an estimated 380,000 milk cows on farms in North Carolina in January. This was the highest January number since 1945. Milk production per cow in herds averaged 340 pounds - the highest ever reached for this month. This combination of both an increase in number of cows on farms and a record high production per cow is responsible for pushing January production to a record level.

Better herd management practices, increased fall and winter freshening of cows and heifers as well as heavier feeding of concentrates has paid off in steadily increased production per cow in herds.

BROILER OUTPUT CONTINUES HIGH

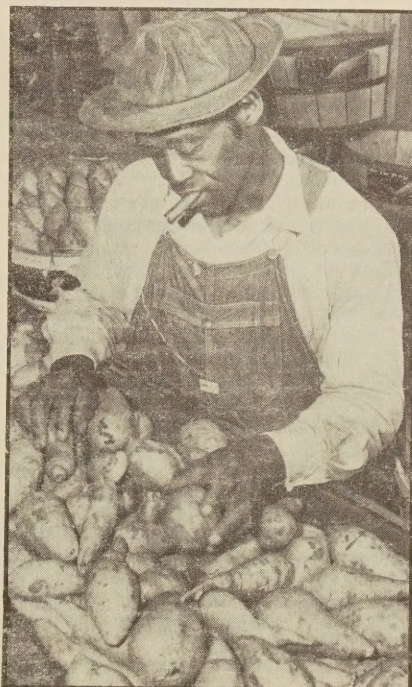
Commercial hatcheries placed 1,556,000 chicks with broiler producers in the Chatham-Wilkes commercial broiler areas during January. This was 1 percent more than the 1,539,000 chicks placed in the areas the preceding month and 12 percent more than January placements of last year.

Hatcherymen serving the two areas report they placed 2,762,000 eggs in incubators during January -- an increase of 30 percent over December setting and 20 percent more than the 2,298,000 eggs set during January 1950.

The total number of chicks hatched also showed an increase over the previous month. The 1,811,000 chicks produced was 8 percent over December and 36 percent over January 1950 hatchings.

Prices producers received for finished broilers strengthened considerably during the month. During the first part of January producers received an average price of 21 cents per pound (FOR farm) for broilers while at month's end they received an average price of 26 cents per pound.

N. C. SWEETPOTATO CROP



EGG PRODUCTION UP SEASONALLY

Egg production in North Carolina during January totalled 61.4 million -- up 25 percent from the previous month but 15 percent less than January production a year ago.

The increase over December output was due entirely to the increase in rate of lay. During January the number of eggs laid per hundred hens averaged 787 compared with an average rate of 611 eggs per hundred hens a month earlier.

There were 7,800,000 layers on Tar Heel farms in January, slightly under the December total of 7,880,000 and 2 percent fewer than the 7,978,000 in farm flocks during January 1950.

The average number of layers per farm flock was 45 in January compared with 47 a month earlier.

GENERAL SITUATION (Continued)

feeding to a greater extent than for several winters. However, hay and roughage supplies have been ample to meet feeding requirements. Feed grain supplies have been generally adequate, but shortages appear to be developing in some of the western counties.

In eastern areas of the State tobacco growers are giving most of their attention to preparation and planting of tobacco plant beds. In the eastern truck crop growing counties land is being readied for the planting of early truck crops, with considerable activity in the commercial Irish potato counties.

SOYBEAN STOCKS (Continued)

Included in the current total are nearly 98 million bushels on farms, a new high, and nearly 39 million bushels in interior mills, elevators and warehouses, as estimated by the Crop Reporting Board.

Farm stocks were less than 61 million bushels on January 1, 1950. Stocks at interior mills, elevators and warehouses were slightly larger than usual, but not as large as the 40 million bushels on January 1, 1945.

Also included in the total are nearly 14 million bushels of commercial stocks at terminals, as reported by the Production and Marketing Administration, and 77 million bushels at processing plants, as enumerated by the Bureau of the Census. Terminal stocks were smaller than on January 1 of most recent years, but processors' stocks are by far the largest of record.

JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY

North Carolina continued to get about its usual share of the cold air masses that spread southward from Canada during January. There were, however, no periods of unusually cold weather this month. Warm air was able to move northward from the Gulf regions at various times during the month bringing several days of mild weather. The conflict between these two contrasting air masses failed to produce the usual amount of rain in North Carolina.

In fact, the scarcity of rain was record breaking in the southeast. Some mountain areas were also particularly dry. Likewise, there was very little snow reported outside of higher mountain sections. Sleet or freezing rain produced glazed highways in some western sections on the 23rd and most of the interior on the final two days of the month.

(Continued on Page 4)

JANUARY 1, 1951 MERCHANTABLE POTATO STOCKS LARGEST OF RECORD

Stocks of merchantable potatoes held on January 1, 1951 by growers and local dealers in or near the areas where produced are the largest January 1 holdings of record.

Combined grower and dealer holdings of 160,650,000 bushels exceed the January 1, 1950 stocks of 150,590,000 bushels by 7 percent and are 6 percent larger than the previous record-large stocks of 152,170,000 bushels held January 1, 1947.

Stocks are large in all sections of the country and are particularly heavy in the West. In the East, holdings are somewhat smaller than the unusually large holdings of January 1, 1950. Combined holdings in North Dakota and Minnesota are about the same as the stocks on hand January 1, 1950.

Production in the 37 late and intermediate States for 1950 was estimated at 375,191,000 bushels, or 7 percent more than the 351,073,000 bushels produced in 1949.

Growers are expected to sell 309,507,000 bushels, or about 82 percent of the 1950 crop. Sales from the 1949 crop amounted to 284,687,000 bushels or 81 percent of production.

From the 1950 crop, an estimated 28,340,000 bushels are expected to be fed to livestock on growers' farms and lost through shrinkage and waste. This quantity does not include potatoes acquired by growers from the Commodity Credit Corporation and fed to livestock, or any potatoes sold for livestock feed.

Growers are expected to utilize 24,040,000 bushels of potatoes for food on farms where grown. Even though low prices of potatoes in relation to other food prices is expected to cause some increase in the average consumption of potatoes on farms where grown, a further reduction in the number of potato farms cause a continuation of the downward trend in the total quantity utilized in this manner.

Based on present planting intentions, an estimated 13,304,000 bushels of 1950-crop potatoes are expected to be used for seed on farms where grown, compared with 13,850,000 bushels of the previous year's production utilized in this manner.

Growers are expected to maintain seeding rates at about the high level of recent years.

MILK COW RATIONS COST MORE IN 1950

The value of grain, mill feeds and other concentrates fed milk cows on farms in North Carolina during 1950 was approximately 20.1 million dollars -- up 1.2 million dollars from 1949.

The total quantity of grain and other concentrates fed in 1950 was 280,000 tons compared with 268,000 tons fed to milk cows the preceding year.

This increase was due to an increase in the number of milk cows on farms since the quantity fed per cow dropped 10 pounds in 1950 to 1,500 pounds.

The unit value of concentrates fed cows was \$3.59 per hundred pounds, up 2 percent from 1949. Thirty six pounds of concentrate rations were fed per hundred pounds of milk produced and cost Tar Heel farmers \$1.29 in 1950 compared with \$1.27 in 1949.

In 1950, milk cows on farms of the United States were fed about 18.5 million tons of grain, mill feeds and other concentrates worth approximately 1.1 billion dollars. The quantity fed per cow in 1950 was 1,600 pounds, the second highest of record, exceeded only in 1949.

The total quantity fed was slightly smaller than in 1949, but the third greatest on record. The unit value of concentrate rations fed to milk cows was \$3.08 per hundred pounds, up 2 percent from 1949.

The quantity of grain and other

concentrates fed per 100 pounds of milk produced averaged 30.6 pounds in 1950, and the cost was 94 cents compared with 95 cents in 1949.

Corn, oats, and commercially mixed feeds were the most important individual feeds in the concentrate ration in 1950.

For the year as a whole, dairy product-feed price relationships were less favorable than in 1949 and the long-time average.

About 2.2 tons of hay, 1.7 tons of silage, and 0.2 tons of other roughage were fed per milk cow in dairy reporters' herds during the October 1949-May 1950 winter feeding period.

Alfalfa made up about one-half of all hay fed; clover mixtures and lespedeza together made up about one-third; and a variety of other hays the remainder.

Approximately six-sevenths of the hay fed to milk cows was grown on the farm where fed. On February 1, 1950, the hay fed to milk cows was valued at \$22.28 per ton, \$2.00 per ton less than a year earlier.

More than two-fifths of the dairy-men fed baled hay. Corn silage made up 83 percent of the silage fed to milk cows during the winter feeding period, but grass silage has been growing in importance. The 1950 dairy pasture season was among the best half-dozen in a 34-year record.

AVERAGE PRICES PAID BY NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES FARMERS FOR SPECIFIED FOOD ITEMS WITH COMPARISONS, 1949-1950

ITEMS	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA			UNITED STATES		
		SEPT. 15 1950	DEC. 15 1950	DEC. 15 1949	SEPT. 15 1950	DEC. 15 1950	DEC. 15 1949
- CENTS -							
SUGAR.....	PER 10 LB.	105.0	105.0	98.0	104.0	104.0	98.7
FLOUR.....	PER 25 LB.	200.0	205.0	190.0	202.0	204.0	194.0
BREAD, WHITE.....	PER LB.	15.7	15.7	15.1	15.0	15.1	14.2
CORN MEAL.....	PER LB.	6.6	6.0	5.1	7.37	6.84	5.59
ROLLED OATS, PACKAGED.....	PER LB.	14.4	14.9	13.8	12.6	12.8	12.1
RICE.....	PER LB.	17.6	17.9	17.3	16.8	17.2	16.4
BACON.....	PER LB.	63.0	61.0	58.0	63.3	59.5	56.7
ROUND STEAK.....	PER LB.	90.0	91.0	77.0	89.0	89.1	75.2
PORK CHOPS.....	PER LB.	-	-	49.0	73.4	60.7	53.6
LARD.....	PER LB.	24.8	24.2	19.5	24.3	23.2	17.9
BUTTER.....	PER LB.	75.0	76.0	75.0	71.5	75.1	72.6
CHEESE, AMERICAN.....	PER LB.	54.0	54.0	53.0	53.5	54.1	52.3
COFFEE.....	PER LB.	82.0	84.0	71.0	85.1	85.2	73.9
TEA, ORANGE PEKOE.....	PER LB.	130.0	130.0	125.0	130.0	131.0	126.0
ORANGES, 216'S.....	PER DOZ.	42.0	33.0	29.0	45.6	45.1	38.8
BANANAS.....	PER LB.	14.9	14.9	14.6	16.3	16.7	16.9
APPLES, FRESH.....	PER LB.	10.1	10.9	10.0	11.7	11.2	9.19

PROSPECTIVE LATE SPRING CABBAGE
ACREAGE UP 12 PERCENT

North Carolina growers report intentions to plant 2,900 acres of cabbage for harvest in the late spring of 1950. If these intentions are carried out, the late spring cabbage acreage will be almost 12 percent larger than the 1950 crop of 2,600 acres and almost 75 percent more than the 10-year (1940-49) average acreage of 1,660 acres.

Freezing weather during November killed some plant beds in the state causing concern among some growers as to whether the supply of plants will be adequate to meet needs. Cold dry weather during December and January has caused the crop to be later than last year in some areas.

By the latter part of January soil moisture supplies were generally adequate but temperatures remained below normal. By February 1, planting was well underway in all areas.

Planting intentions reports from eight late spring cabbage producing states indicate approximately the same acreage as last year. The 12,600 acres intended this year compares with 12,670 acres for harvest last year and the 10-year average of 10,490.

The acreage for each of the late spring states is shown in the table below.

PROSPECTIVE LATE SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE

STATE	ACREAGE		
	10-YEAR AVERAGE 1940-49	1950	PROSPEC- TIVE 1951
N. CAROLINA.....	1,660	2,600	2,900
VIRGINIA.....	1,640	2,100	2,400
MARYLAND.....	1,480	1,400	1,400
TENNESSEE.....	3,260	4,200	3,600
KENTUCKY.....	280	420	200
OHIO.....	500	470	450
MISSOURI.....	1,110	1,100	1,100
WASHINGTON.....	550	550	550
TOTAL LATE SPRING.....	10,490	12,670	12,600

DECEMBER FOOD PRICES
ABOVE YEAR EARLIER

Most items of food purchased by North Carolina farmers were higher on December 15, 1950 than on December 15, 1949 (see table above). In fact, all foods listed in the table above increased in price during the above period.

Corn meal, round steak and coffee increased 18.0 percent during this period. Lard increased 24.0 percent, which was the highest percentage increase of any item. Most of the remaining items increased from 4.0 to 14.0 percent.

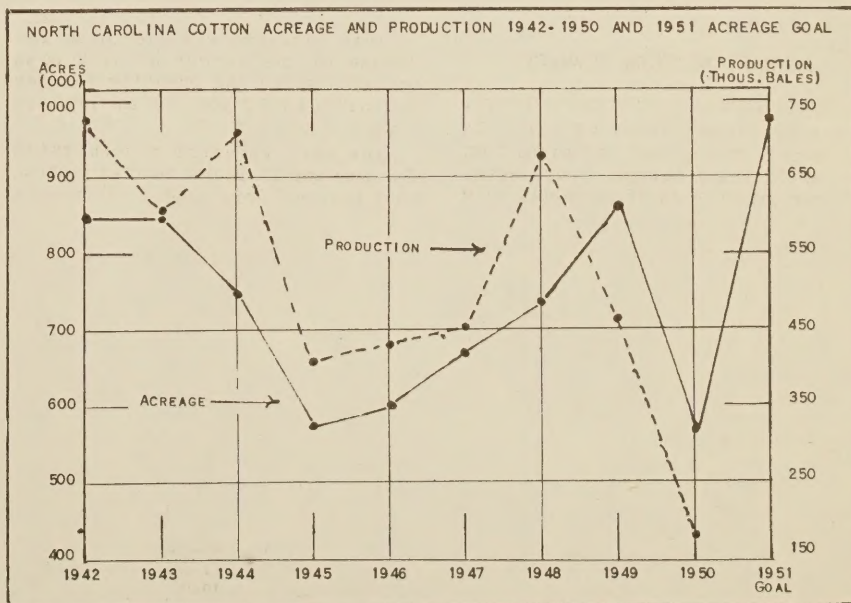
Some of the items increased in price while others decreased from September to December 1950. Price increases were noted in flour, rice, round steak, coffee and apples. Items such as corn meal, bacon, lard and oranges were cheaper on December 15 than on September 15.

COTTON INCREASE NEEDED

North Carolina farmers are asked to plant 975,000 acres of cotton this year as their part in the attempt to reach the national production goal of 16 million bales of lint cotton.

Cotton is listed as one of the most critical materials needed in the present defense program. The very short crop produced last year due to heavier boll weevil damage throughout most of the cotton belt together with the increased use of cotton for both civilian and military production have seriously depleted the supplies of cotton on hand.

To obtain the increased production needed growers are urged to increase their acreage, select the best seed for their locality and use recommended cultural practices, fertilizer applications and insect control measures. Literature on these recommendations are available in county agents' offices.



FARM REPORT

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FEBRUARY 15, 1951

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DECLINES

Production of meat in commercial plants in North Carolina during December 1950 totalled 13,865,000 pounds -- 20 percent less than the 17,414,000 pounds produced during November but 20 percent above the December 1949 output. The estimated meat production includes slaughter in Federally inspected plants and in other wholesale and retail plants, but excludes farm slaughter.

December beef production at 5,255,000 pounds was 26 percent under November but 25 percent more than 4,218,000 pounds produced in December a year earlier. The number of head of cattle slaughtered during December is estimated at 6,500 compared with 7,087 head slaughtered in November and 4,218 during December 1949.

A total of 4,100 calves were slaughtered during December. This was the same number as slaughtered a month earlier and 8 percent above December 1949.

Hog slaughter for the month at 35,000 head was down 12.5 percent from November but up 21 percent from the 29,000 slaughtered in December 1949. The average liveweight of hogs slaughtered was 229 pounds, however, compared with 230 pounds the preceding year so pork production in the State increased only 18 percent.

Total meat production in the Tar Heel State during 1950 is estimated at 166.5 million pounds -- 9 percent more than the 1949 output of 152.6 million pounds. Slaughter of calves sheep and lambs showed a drop from 1949 both in number of head and total liveweight slaughtered. On the other hand, cattle slaughter for 1950 was up 8 percent from the preceding year and hog slaughter increased 15 percent.

U. S. meat production in 1950 totalled 20,219 million pounds, up 3 percent from 1949.

NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

SPECIES	DECEMBER				JANUARY-DECEMBER TOTAL			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVELWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVELWEIGHT	
	1949	a/ 1950	1949	a/ 1950	1949	a/ 1950	1949	a/ 1950
	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.	THOUS. HEAD	THOUS. LBS.
CATTLE....	5.0	6.5	4,218	5,255	79.2	85.9	65,292	70,534
CALVES....	3.8	4.1	593	641	71.4	56.8	11,687	9,664
SHEEP & LAMBS.....	.1	-	9	-	2.4	1.9	195	167
HOGS.....	29.0	35.0	6,754	7,969	335.0	384.0	75,414	86,154

Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter. a/ Revised

JANUARY WEATHER SUMMARY (Continued)

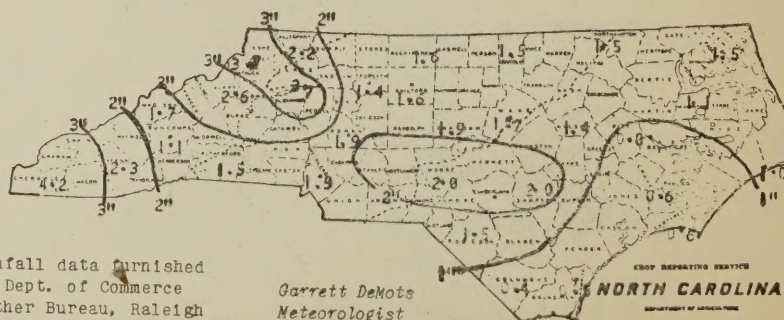
Average temperatures during January ranged from normal to as much as three degrees above normal. Both warm and cold days occurred frequently during the month and the changes from one to the other were often quite abrupt.

The 9th was the coldest day in all sections with lowest readings within 5 or 10 degrees of zero in the mountains ranging up to the low and middle 20's in the east. The 20th was unusually warm with top readings in the 70's common outside of the mountains.

Total rainfall amounts during January were less than half of the long-time averages in just about all of North Carolina. At Wilmington, only 0.45 of an inch fell, making January, 1951, the driest January in that City in 81 years of Weather Bureau records.

The normal rainfall there during January is 3.29 inches. Asheville was also unusually dry. In fact, since weather records started there in 1903, there have been only two Januaries with less rain than the 1.07 inches recorded this year.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING JANUARY, 1951



Rainfall data furnished
By Dept. of Commerce
Weather Bureau, Raleigh

Garrett DeMots
Meteorologist